

Serial No. 09/780,903

Art Unit: 3634

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants herewith submit a copy of fig. 5 and fig. 6 with changes shown in red.

Applicants request approval for amending the drawings.

When the drawings are amended, Applicants will submit a copy of the amended specification to conform the specification to the drawings.

DISCUSSION

Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection to the form of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112. The amendments to the claims are fully supported in the specification and claims as originally filed. None of the amendments to the claims have been entered to overcome any prior art reference of which Applicants are aware.

Applicants have submitted corrected drawings for approval by the Examiner. When approval by the Examiner is received, Applicants will submit corrected drawings and amended pages of the specification to conform the specification to the changes in the drawings.

Claims 1-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Callas (U.S. 6,093,469). Applicants respectfully submit that Callas neither teaches nor suggests the present invention. As presently claimed, the invention is directed to a flexible sheet having a top surface and a bottom surface wherein the flexible sheet is comprised of a first polymeric resin which is sufficiently soft to render the flexible sheet non-curling and the bottom surface non-skid and a plurality of upwardly extending ridges on the top surface of the flexible sheet, said upwardly extending ridges being comprised of a second polymeric resin which is harder than the first polymeric resin and which provides a low friction surface on the top edges of said upwardly extending ridges.

Serial No. 09/780,903

Art Unit: 3634

Applicants submit that Callas is not pertinent to the present invention since it neither teaches nor suggests a flexible sheet having upwardly extending ridges comprised of a second polymeric resin which is harder than the first polymeric resin. Callas discloses a carpet type structure in which loops of a polymeric filament extend from a surface of a random web of needle punched and heat bonded fibers. The upper surface of the structure does not comprise ridges of a material which is harder than the flexible sheet which is non-curling and non-skid. Applicants respectfully submit that the looped fibers are not equivalent to the ridges required in the present invention. Applicants herewith submit a copy of the American Heritage Dictionary of the English language, page 117, which provides a definition of a ridge. The looped fibers do not correspond to the definition of a ridge. Applicants therefor respectfully submit that Callas would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

Claims 1-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Martey (U.S. 5,865,664). Applicants respectfully submit that Martey neither teaches nor suggest the present invention. Martey is directed to a jumping mat popping toy with an upper surface comprised of many soft micro bubbles extending from the upper surface. A soft upper layer is adherent to a stiff bottom layer. The stiff bottom layer has sufficient ridigity that the mat lies flat when jumped upon and cannot wrap around and suffocate a child. Applicants respectfully submit that the stiff bottom layer required in the Martey invention is far different from the flexible sheet which is non-curling and non-skid. In addition, the bubbles do not correspond to the definition of ridges. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Martey would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carla (sic Callas) or Martey and further in view of Naka (U.S. 4,060,947). Applicants respectfully submit that Callas, Martey and Naka, whether considered alone or combination, would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

The deficiencies in Callas and Martey have been discussed in great detail above.

Serial No. 08/780,903

Art Unit: 3634

Applicants submit that a combination of Naka with Callas or Martey would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

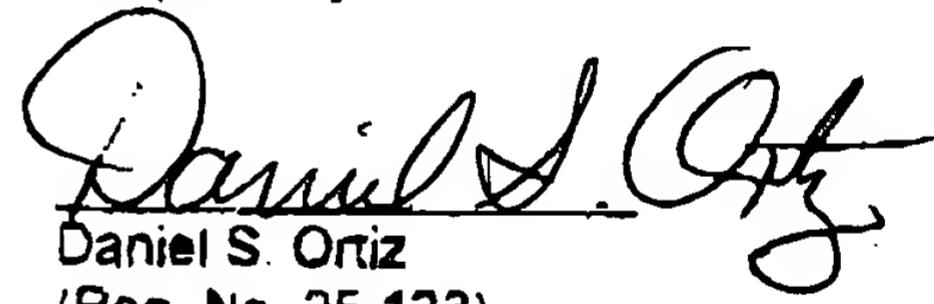
The present invention requires that the bottom surface be non-skid surface and that the ridges on the top surface provide a low friction surface. One skilled in the art applying the teachings of Martey would require that the top surface be a non-skid surface rather than a low friction surface. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Callas or Martey modified according to the teachings of Naka would arrive at a liner structure which had a non-skid or non-slip upper surface.

As taught in the present application, the harder material which comprise the ridges has a low coefficient of friction to permit easy removal of objects placed on the mat. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the combination of Callas or Martey with Naka would neither nor suggest the present invention.

In view of the amendments entered in the claims and the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Applicants will be looking forward to approval to the changes suggested for the drawings.

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 09/780,903
Art Unit: 3634



PAGE SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

5. The liner structure of claim 4 wherein the downwardly extending ridges [are flat or rounded] have a profile selected from the group consisting of flat end and rounded end.
12. The liner structure of claim 1 wherein a hardness of the second polymeric resin is harder than a hardness of the first polymeric resin by at least 3 Shore A Hardness units.

DRAWING
CORRECTION
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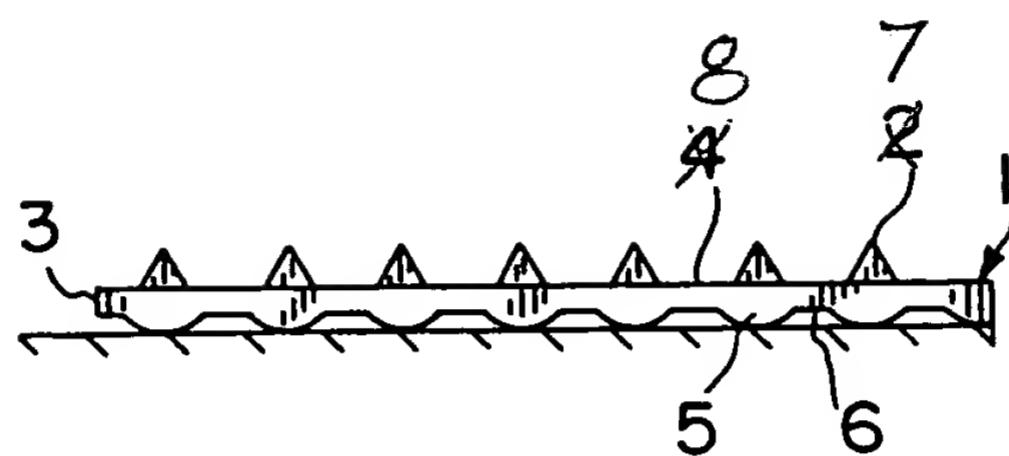


FIG. 5

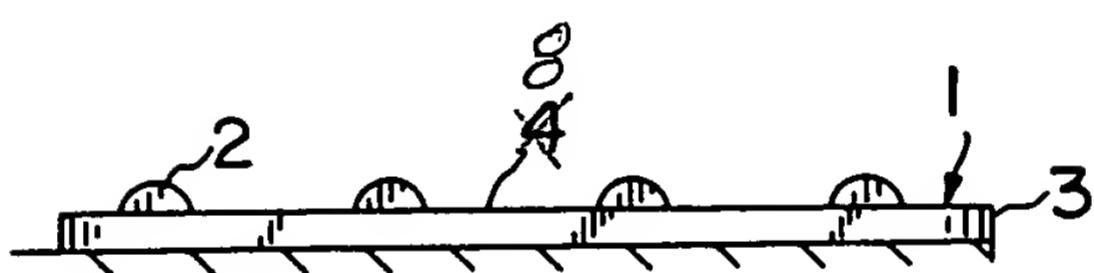


FIG. 6

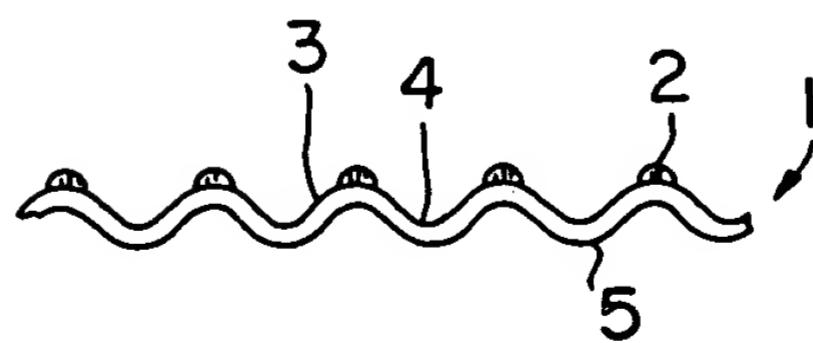


FIG. 7



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THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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